

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed 20 February 2007, the Examiner courteously advised that *if* the amendment requested in Applicant's Amendment dated 23 January 2007 were entered, it would overcome the rejections of record against claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 16-31. The Examiner also advised that the amendment would not overcome the rejections of claims 2, 4 and 11-12 because the "and/or" recitations in these claims permitted an alternative that would allegedly be unpatentable over the art cited under 35 USC 103(a). Moreover, the Examiner advised that the amendment raised issues of alleged indefiniteness with respect to dependent claims 18-21.

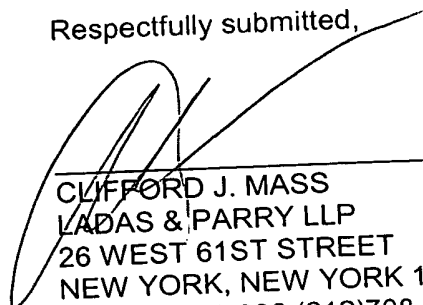
Applicant has now repeated the amendment to claim 1 and has amended claims 2, 11 and 12 to track the amendment made to claim 1. As recognized by the Examiner with respect to claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, the amendments preclude from these claims the alternative that prompted the rejection under 35 USC 103(a).

Applicant has also amended claims 18-21 to take account of the amendments made to claim 1 and thereby to render these claims definite. All claims as amended are respectfully considered to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments overcome all rejections and objections of record and place the application into

allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted. Nevertheless, if the Examiner believes that any further amendment is needed to place the application into condition for allowance, she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,



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